SUBJECT No. 22.

Free grazing in State Forests.

Messrs. Santappa Setti, Kadur District Board, and Chikmallappa, Gundlupet Taluk.

Mr. Santappa Setti.—District forests which are reserved for grazing purposes are situated at a distance from the villages while the State Forests are at our doors. The consequence is that as soon as our cattle enter these forests the owner of the cattle is fined and the cattle are driven to the cattle pounds. Moreover the grass in these State Forests is not utilised for any useful purpose, and on the other hand it is a source of loss to Government as a result of fire, etc., during the summer season. It is not understood why the grass should not be used by the raiyats instead of being wasted.

First Member of Council.—It is not possible to grant the request. Every endeavour will be made to shift the boundaries of the State Forests, when they are too close to inhabited villages as has already been done in several cases.

REVENUE.—(REGISTRATION).

(No. 23.)

SUBJECT No. 23.

(1) Levy of fees on documents by stamps in the Registration Department.

(2) Change of procedure in the registration of documents.

(1) Mr. B. Kesavaiya, Chikmagalur Taluk.

(2) Messrs. Siddagangappa, Ramasamudra Municipality, Venkatasamaiya and Dorasamaiengar, Chamrajnagar Taluk.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurti Rao.—The introduction of stamps in lieu of cash for the registration fees will not work properly, and would at the same time create great hardship for the people. No doubt, the Representative Assembly urged in 1919 to introduce such a system; but we did not know then the real hardship that would be caused if such a system is brought into force. I therefore request that the present system may be continued for some time to come.

Second Member of Council.—This subject was brought before this Assembly by the members themselves, and on their representation, an amendment to this effect was taken up recently and passed. The introduction of stamps in lieu of cash does not altogether do away with payment in cash and since the Government would generally use their discretion in all matters, I do not think there would be much hardship.

Mr. Purushottamanandagiri Goswami.—This as well as the next subject are allied to each other and may be taken up together. A fee of one rupee is levied for registering a property worth 100 rupees. A court fee stamp may be levied instead of registration fee and stamp. It is always better to have duplicate copies, one to be with the Registration office and one with the applicant. If any document is lost, the applicant will not be put to much trouble as he can get a copy made from the original document which would be in the Registration office. This system will stop taking bribes to a great extent and there will not be much difficulty with regard to the authenticity of the document.

Dewan.—Bribery cannot be proved easily. If any proofs are forthcoming to show that a certain official of the Registration Department has taken bribes, serious notice will be taken with regard to his conduct.

Mr. Purushottamanandagiri Goswami.—There will not be any proof with regard to the bribes. But the fact that a petty official drawing Rs. 15 a month is in a position to build a house worth about ten to fifteen thousand

rupees is a clear proof of taking bribes. I therefore request that duplicate copies should be registered, one to be in the Registration office and one with the party concerned.

Dewan.—This will be considered.

Mr. Kanni Settappa.—The present system of levying cash instead of stamps is the best arrangement and any change in the present system would [illegible] many civil suits and corruption. I would therefore earnestly request that no change in the present system be made.

Mr. Shamaiengar.—If a document is to be registered people will have to go long distances for procuring stamps as they will not be readily available with stamp vendors, and sometimes they will have to return from the Registration office without getting the necessary stamps. The official who will be in the habit of taking bribes would find this an opportune time and take enhanced rates. It may not be possible to take stamps in each and every case. It is therefore submitted that owing to the various hardships that would be caused to the people, the present system may be continued for some time longer.

Second Member of Council.—It is not quite correct to say that stamps would not be available, as each taluk headquarter is supplied with ample stamps so that they may be available to the public at all times. It will be easy enough if stamps are sold in the Registration office itself, and Government would arrange to have them sold in the respective offices in taluk headquarters.

Mr. Shamaiengar.—It is very undesirable to have duplicate copies of the documents. This would naturally lead to forgery and substitution. The suggestion of a certain member to have duplicate copies should not be approved by the Government.

Mr. D. S. Hanumantha Rao.—Original may be substituted and its contents altered. Now original is with one man and copy with another. This is safe.

Dewan.—Levying of registration fees in stamps is only an alternative and not in lieu of cash, and the easier of the two may be adopted by the people. The system of levying stamps will be tried for some time and further action will be taken after seeing the feasibility or otherwise of the system. Now it is not possible to cancel the orders already passed.

With regard to the next subject it is not possible to change the procedure in registration of documents as it would lead to grave risks.

Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rao.—In Ceylon the system exists. The experiment may be tried.

Dewan.—I do not think it is possible.

PROTECTION—(LEGISLATION).

(Nos. 24 to 28.)

SUBJECT No. 24.

Introduction of Usurious Loans Act.

Mr. B. N. Vijaya Deva, Vokkaligara Sangha, Bangalore.

Summary of Representation.—An act on the lines of the British Indian Usurious Loans Act may be introduced in the Mysore State.

Second Member of Council.—The question has been taken up and a bill is under preparation.